

Physician services: Assessing payment adequacy and updating payments

ISSUE: In the March 2008 Report to the Congress, MedPAC will address three questions concerning Medicare's payments for physician services: Are current payments adequate? How should payments for calendar year 2009 be updated?

KEY POINTS: We examine the following factors to determine whether Medicare payments for physician services are adequate:

- Beneficiary access to physician services
- Physician supply
- Private insurer rates compared to Medicare
- Volume
- Ambulatory care quality

We then present a draft update recommendation for 2009.

ACTION: Commissioners should review the findings in preparation for voting on the update recommendation.

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